

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
SOE-02 DOE-11 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EA-10 /143 W
-----120437 120405Z /41

R 111301Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8657
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0588

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, IN, UK
SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS ON THE SAFEGUARDS PROBLEM

REFTELS: (A) NEW DELHI 307 (NOTAL) (B) NEW DELHI 437

1. WHOEVER DRAFTS THE "COLD AND VERY BLUNT" LETTER
DUE PRIME MINISTER DESAI MIGHT CONSIDER EMULATING THE
APPROACH USED BY PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HERE. IN
BRIEF, HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS POWERS
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SHOULD PROPERLY BE EXPECTED TO EFFECT LIMITS ON THE
"VERTICAL" PROLIFERATION FOR WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN
RESPONSIBLE BEFORE EXPECTING INDIA TO MOVE IN THEIR
DIRECTION ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS.
THE NOTION OF THIS KIND OF TRADE-OFF PROTECTS INDIA'S
PRIDE, OBVIATES OUR SEEMING TO ASSUME A SUPERIOR MORAL
POSITION, AND OFFERS THE ONLY HOPE WE CAN SEE AT THIS

POINT FOR AN EVENTUAL FAVORABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE
GOI'S POSITION.

2. IN VIEW OF VARIED DESAI STATEMENTS AND EVEN MORE
DISCREPANT PRESS REPORTS THIS PAST WEEK ON THE CONDITIONS
WHICH THE GOI JUDGES MUST BE MET BEFORE INDIA CAN ACCEPT
SAFEGUARDS, THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE DISTINCTLY OPAQUE.
WE IN THE MISSION, HOWEVER, FIND MORARJI'S STATEMENT TO
OUR SENATORIAL CODEL (REFTEL A) AND THE CALLAGHAN PRESS
STATEMENT THAT MORARJI PERSONALLY CLEARED (REFTEL B) TO
BE IN GENERAL ACCORD WITH EACH OTHER (THOUGH THE VERSION
GIVEN THE SENATORS IS MORE EXPLICIT IN INCLUDING CHINA).
THEY PROBABLY REPRESENT THE BEST AVAILABLE INDICATIONS
OF THE DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY (IF ANY) THAT EXISTS IN THE
PM'S POSITION. WE DO NOT KNOW IF DESAI HAS THE AGREEMENT
OF HIS CABINET TO THIS APPROACH, AND EXPECT THAT THERE WOULD
BE SOME OPPOSITION TO IT THERE AND IN THE BUREAUCRACY
AND SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT. BUT IT IS MORE POLITICALLY
SELLABLE THAN ANY OTHER APPROACH, AND IS, IN ANY EVENT,
THE ONLY COURSE DESAI HIMSELF SEEMS WILLING TO PURSUE.

3. SO FAR AS THE PRESS IS CONCERNED, WHILE THE UK
AND US OBJECTIVES ON SAFEGUARDS ARE SEEN TO BE
IDENTICAL, MARKED APPRECIATION HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN
SEVERAL INSTANCES FOR PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S
DIPLOMATIC EMPHASIS ON THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
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NUCLEAR WEAPONS POWERS TO GET THEIR OWN HOUSES IN ORDER.
WE BELIEVE AN APPROACH WHICH EMULATED IT WOULD BE WELL
RECEIVED BY DESAI, PARTICULARLY IF IT USED AS A TAKE-OFF
POINT THE PRESIDENT'S OWN RECOLLECTION OF THE STCUSS
DESAI LAID ON THIS ELEMENT DURING THE TALKS HERE.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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